

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 06270 242006Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 ACDA-19 PM-07 MC-02 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03

DRC-01 /110 W

----- 001148

R 241934Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2564

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6270

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, EC, UK

SUBJ: ECUADOREAN NAVY PURCHASE OF BRITISH FRIGATES

1. UNCLASSIFIED. EL COMERCIO OF SEPTEMBER 20 DISPLAYED PROMINENTLY ON PAGE ONE AN ARTICLE, DATELINED LONDON, QUOTING SIR ERIC YARROW (PRESIDENT OF YARROW SHIPYARDS) AS SAYING ECUADOR HAD BEEN OFFERED AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUY TWO FRIGATES FOR \$125 MILLION. YARROW'S STATEMENT WAS REPORTEDLY MADE AT A CEREMONY DURING WHICH THE THIRD OF THE NEW "TYPE 21" FRIGATES WAS LAUNCHED FOR THE ROYAL NAVY. THE NEWS DISPATCH INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN YARROW AND THE GOE WERE FAR FROM COMPLETED, THEY SEEMED TO BE ON TRACK.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. IN FACT, NAVATT HAS LEARNED THAT THE ECUADOREAN NAVY IS IN THE FINAL STAGES OF CONSIDERING THE PURCHASE OF TWO NEW FRIGATES FROM YARROW. THEY WOULD BE THE NEW CLASS, NOT YET LISTED IN JANE'S DESCRIBED AS "TYPE-21"; 2100-TON DISPLACEMENT, TWIN ROLLS ROYCE GAS TURBINES WITH TWIN DIESELS. SINGLE 4.5" MAIN ARMAMENT, WITH FOUR "EXOCET" SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE MOUNTS, PLUS 40MM AND 20MM WEAPONS AND ONE ASW WEAPONS SYSTEM AND HELICOPTER PLATFORM. THE ECUADOREANS HAVE REPORTEDLY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 06270 242006Z

BEEN OFFERED 10-YEAR FINANCE TERMS AT AN OVERALL 9 PERCENT RATE

OF INTEREST. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THE COST, BUT UNDERSTAND THAT IT WILL INCLUDE SPARES AND TRAINING PACKAGES. THE \$125 MILLION REPORTED IN EL COMERCIO SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT. FIRST SHIP WOULD BE DELIVERED IN ABOUT THREE YEARS AFTER SIGNATURE OF THE CONTRACT; THE SECOND ABOUT SIX MONTHS AFTERWARDS.

3. SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ADMIRAL VASQUEZ, GENERAL COMMANDER OF THE ECUADOREAN NAVY, IS PRESENTLY ON A SIX-WEEK VISIT TO EUROPE (WHICH WE UNDERSTAND TO BE PRIMARILY A FAMILY VACATION IN GERMANY.) IT IS UNLIKELY THAT A FINAL DECISION WILL BE TAKEN BEFORE HIS RETURN.

BREWSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY SALES, NAVAL SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974QUITO06270
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740269-0205
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740919/aaaaapoo.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECUADOREAN NAVY PURCHASE OF BRITISH FRIGATES
TAGS: MILI, EC, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005